



Volunteer Docent Programme

Reports to: Visitor Experience Coordinator

Role type: Volunteering

Location: Bangalore

Commencing: October 2025 to May 2026

Application Deadline: September 30, 2025

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About MAP

The Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) is one of India's first major museums of South Asian visual culture. The museum is housed in a state-of-the-art, 44,000 square foot building, designed by the acclaimed Indian architectural practice Matthew & Ghosh, on a landmark site at the heart of Bengaluru's museum district. MAP's five-story building on Kasturba Road includes multiple galleries where the collection is displayed, an auditorium, an art and research library, an education centre, a specialised research and conservation facility, as well as a café.

MAP's collection includes more than 1000,000 works predominantly from South Asian: Modern and contemporary art, living traditions, textiles, craft and design, pop culture, pre modern art and photography, dating from the tenth century to contemporary times.

Our mission is to harness the transformative potential of art, to enrich lives, ignite creativity, and connect people. We make art accessible and engaging for everyone through innovative experiences, meaningful dialogue and building communities.

With a focus on accessibility for people with disabilities, and technological tools to make the museum relevant and exciting, MAP ensures a holistic experience for visitors of all ages.

Having launched online in December 2020, at the height of the pandemic, as India's only digital-first museum, and then physically in February 2023, MAP has been bringing its collection to life through multiple pathways, from online exhibitions to a range of articles and essays, collaborations with museums around the world, engaging talks by leading industry figures, and educational resources for kids and adults.

Summary

The docent programme is an effort to augment the Museum's learning team. Docents are freelance educators trained by the Museum team to lead interpretive tours for diverse visitor groups, colleges, NGOs, and family activities. Docent positions are open to any adult who has an interest and or prior experience in history, art, and education, and who can dedicate a fixed number of hours per month. Docents undergo a training period before they start leading programmes. The roles and responsibilities of a docent are as follows-

- Introducing and welcoming visitors to the Museum of Art and Photography
- Responding to inquiries, comments, and feedback from diverse audiences clearly, courteously and effectively
- Conducting walkthroughs for all the exhibitions catered to the general audience post-walkthrough training.
- The docent is expected to undergo sensitisation training and walkthrough training conducted by the docent programme coordinator
- Providing information about the different galleries and their exhibitions, and daily programme offerings
- Using knowledge of museum content to guide visitor learning in the museum's public spaces
- Initiating and facilitating conversations and using objects to spark new questions and ideas from visitors in exhibitions
- Using available resources including computers, iPads, colleagues, and print resources to answer visitor questions or concerns
- Resolving most issues that arise from visitors or bring escalating problems to the attention of the docent coordinator when appropriate/necessary. Staffing exhibitions, public spaces, and exterior museum areas as needed to engage the public in conversation and provide wayfinding assistance

Necessary Skills and Qualifications

- Flexible and willing to problem solve and adapt to quickly changing situations
- Reliable and willing to meet requirements and expectations set by Museum staff
- An interest in contemporary art, photography and Culture with an eagerness to learn something new every day
- Ability to utilise computers, iPads, and other technology to assist visitors
- Enthusiasm for working with the museum's diverse audiences
- Demonstrable interpersonal skills or customer services experience - must be able to make each visitor feel welcome, impart relevant museum content, and resolve problems
- Comfort and confidence speaking to groups of all sizes
- Ability to work with a team
- Fluency in Kannada, Hindi or ISL skills are not required but are definitely a plus.

Requirements

If selected for the programme, the docent must be willing to provide 3 hours of time each week minimum. The first round of our Docent Programme is for 6 months commencing from October 2025 till May, 2026 with one month of training and 5 months of populating the museum with your expertise!

Note- This is a volunteering and unpaid position open to individuals above 18 and residing in Bangalore.

Equality & Diversity

MAP is an equal opportunities employer. We oppose all forms of discrimination and believe that all people, regardless of their identity or membership of any group deserve to be treated equally, consistently and fairly.

We welcome creativity, excellence and different perspectives that individuals of all backgrounds and abilities bring to our work.

Application process

Please note that all candidates must complete an on-line application and provide complete and accurate information. Only selected candidates will be further contacted and candidates in the final selection step will be subject to reference checks based on the information provided.